Downsizing strength of IAS officers

861. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total strength of IAS officers employed in Government of India;

(b) the total revenue spent on these officers by way of salary, allowances, housing facilities, transport allowance, TA/DA etc.; and

(c) how Government plans to downsize and right size the number of bureaucrats to bring down the expenditure and number of personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) There are 786 Indian Administrative Service Officers in the Government of India as on 1.11.2003.

(b) The information is not centrally maintained.

(c) The All India Services, which includes the Indian Administrative Service, are constituted under the All India Services Act and Regulations framed thereunder to serve both the State Governments and Central Government. The Indian Administrative Service cadres are constituted for each State or group of States and the strength is decided in consultation with the State Government or State Governments. The strength of these cadres is reviewed normally at intervals of five years by the Central Government in consultation with the State Government or State Governments concerned, keeping in view the present strength, specific needs of the States, attrition and the need for new incumbents.

Right to strike by Government employees

862. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India ruled a few months back that the Government servants had no right to resort to strike for the settlement or their problems or grievances against the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Governments' reaction thereto; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government employees' Unions and Associations have expressed their strong resentment against the judicial pronouncement and urged Government to file a review petition before the apex court and if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) In the judgement delivered on 6th August, 2003 in the case of T.K. Rangarajan *Vs.* Government of Tamil Nadu and others, the Supreme Court has held that no right to strike-whether Fundamental, Statutory or Equitable/Moral Right—exists with the Government employees. As per the provisions of the Conduct Rules, no Government servant shall resort to or in any way abet any form of strike or coercion or physical duress in connection with any matter pertaining to his service of any other Government servant.

(c) Some of the Trade Unions and employees have expressed their protest against the said judgement. It is understood that the Supreme Court has decided to reconsider the said judgement in the Writ Petition filed by the General Secretary of Andhra Pradesh State Council of the AITUC.

Government's Wage Bill

863. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government's wage bill including pensionary liabilities is growing at a very fast rate for the past several years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard to contain the Government expenditure on this account within sustainable limits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.